

Activity:	Federal Land Acquisition Administration
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Activity Summary

Program Component	2003 Enacted	2004 Enacted	FY 2005			Change From 2004 (+/-)
			Uncontr/ Related Changes	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Federal Land Acquisition Administration	12,506	10,371	+79	+61	10,511	+140
Total Requirements	12,506	10,371	+79	+61	10,511	+140

Authorization

16 USC 460l-4 to l-11 The Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965

Draft DOI Outcome Goals Applicable to Federal Land Acquisition and Administration**Resource Protection****1.1 Improve Health of Watersheds, Landscapes, and Marine Resources**

Federal Land Acquisition Activities contribute to this goal by acquiring land (either through donation or outright purchase) in the interest of conserving natural resources to restore and maintain proper function to watersheds and landscapes including acquisitions to help park sites mitigate outside influences on park resources. For example, the Big Cypress mineral rights acquisition helps to restore the everglades ecosystem, including its function as a nursery for marine and freshwater fish.

1.2 Sustain Biological Communities

Federal Land Acquisition Activities contribute to this goal by acquiring land in the interest of protecting habitat for specific species or to enhance conditions for entire biological communities. For example, purchase of timber company lands at Big Thicket National Preserve in Texas will protect the rich biological diversity of the area known as the "biological crossroads of North America."

1.3 Protect Cultural and Natural Heritage Resources

Federal Land Acquisition Activities contribute to this goal by acquiring land to reduce degradation and protect cultural and natural heritage resources. For example, the acquisition of lands at Fort Clatsop National Memorial will protect a 5.5-mile segment of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.

Recreation**3.1 Improve Access to Appropriate Recreation Opportunities on DOI Managed or Partnered Lands and Waters**

Federal Land Acquisition Activities contribute to this goal by acquiring land (either through donation or outright purchase) to improve capacities to provide access for recreation. For example, the acquisition of two properties near the Potomac River in the District of Columbia will enhance recreational opportunities for boating and hiking.

FY 2005 Base Program Overview

The **Land Acquisition Administration** activity administers the acquisition of lands throughout the National Park System in a responsible and accountable way ensuring compliance with existing guidelines and laws. Land Acquisition Administration funds are used to staff land acquisition offices at seven program centers, three project offices, the Washington National Program Center, and the Washington Office. The funds are used to cover personnel and administrative costs such as salaries, personnel benefits, utilities, training, employee relocation, supplies, materials and equipment for the administration, implementation, coordination, and evaluation of the land acquisition program of the National Park Service. In addition,

funds from this account will be used to fund the Office of Appraisal Services (OAS), located in the Department of the Interior's National Business Center. The National Park Service Land Resources Program will acquire appraisals and expert appraisal advice from the OAS and its staff in support of land acquisition work. The amount to be paid to the OAS will cover direct costs such as salaries, benefits, travel, and training - and only for appraisal work for acquisition inside NPS boundaries.

The NPS Land Resources Program is examining ways in FY 2004 and 2005 to reduce personnel costs, commensurate with the decreased line-item project requests so that it can operate at the requested funding level in FY 2005.

Performance summary tables are found at the end of this Appropriation.

FY 2003 Program Performance Accomplishments

- Purchased the 6,753-acre Heartwood Forestland Fund property at New River Gorge National River.
- At Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park, partnered with the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation to acquire an historic 142-acre farm.
- Acquisitions at Big Cypress (1,327 acres) and Everglades (272 acres) support DOI initiative to restore water flow into the Everglades/Florida Bay ecosystem
 - Significant donations received:
 - Acadia National Park – 330 acres of lands and interests in lands.
 - Mojave National Preserve – 1,796 acres of land.

Acres	Method of acquisition
127,891	Purchase
862	Taking or Condemnation
3,370	Donation
204	Exchange
7	Transfer
132,334	Total

FY 2004 Program Performance

Land acquisition staff will begin to be consolidated in a streamlining effort during Fiscal Year 2004. This effort will reflect revised priorities in the administration of acquisition efforts related to current high priority projects within the National Park System. In addition, the Land Resources Program will continue to work with the Department's National Business Center to implement the new appraisal process through the Office of Appraisal Services.

Consolidated Appraisal Function

	2003 Actual	2004 Estimate	Uncontroll. & Related Changes (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	2005 Budget Request	Change From 2004 (+/-)
Federal Land Acquisition Administration [Activity]						
\$ (000)	1,429	1,431	0	0	1,431	0
FTE	14	15	0	0	15	0
Operation of National Parks [Account]						
Park Management – Park Support [Activity-Subactivity]						
\$ (000)	206	205	0	0	205	0
FTE	2	2	0	0	2	0
Total, All Funding						
\$ (000)	1,635	1,636	0	0	1,636	0
FTE	16	17	0	0	17	0

In November 2003, real estate appraisal functions within the Department were consolidated in order to achieve significant reform of the appraisal function. The new appraisal organization reports to the National Business Center. Funding to support the function is primarily budgeted in the Land Acquisition Account, with additional funding from the ONPS Concessions program.

For FY 2004 and FY 2005 the Working Capital Fund centralized billing includes \$1.636 million for the costs of appraisal salaries and benefits, but excludes other appraisal support costs. As described above, levels of funding for Acquisition Management are reduced in FY 2004 and FY 2005. The impact of these reductions on the appraisal program is yet to be fully determined for land acquisition for 2004 and 2005. We anticipate that these reductions will be commensurate with the overall reductions in acquisition workload and tie to a reduced need for appraisals to support land acquisition. The estimates provided for appraisal services from the NPS Land Acquisition appropriation - \$1.431 million and 15 FTE – are taken from the September 2003 approved reprogramming request for the new organization, and do not reflect any downward adjustments that may be made due to the reduction of funds available for NPS Federal Land Acquisition Administration. Once these determinations are made, we will inform the Congress of our plans for FY 2004 and FY 2005.

The balance of costs to support the appraisal function including travel, training, etc. will be paid by the bureau in FY 2004. Costs for the appraisal function are being tracked in FY 2004 and information is being developed on the other relevant costs of the appraisal function. Based on this information, some of these additional costs will become the responsibility of the National Business Center and will be billed to the bureau beginning in FY 2005. We will keep Congress informed of our progress in this area.

Justification of FY 2005 Budget Request: Federal Land Acquisition Administration

Request Component	Amount
FY 2004 Program	10,371
Programmatic Changes	+61
TOTAL, Program Changes	+61
Uncontrollable changes	+79
FY 2005 Budget Request	10,511
Net change	+140

Increase Funding for Land Acquisition Administration: +\$0.140 million

An increase of \$141,000 is requested for this activity to address three issues:

- to partially fund the additional cost of the January pay raise,
- to fund charges related to the National Business Center coordinating the Department's appraisal workload through the newly formed Office of Appraisal Services, and
- to continue the streamlining effort begun in FY 2004, with reduction in staff levels through office closure, buyout and early retirement authority, reduction in force, and other appropriate means.